

Senate Resolution 384

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Reed of the 35th, Fort of the 39th, Adelman of the 42nd, Thompson of the 5th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Imagine Wesley International Academy; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Imagine Wesley International Academy will be a tuition-free, public charter
3 school, serving students from kindergarten through eighth grade in a single gender setting,
4 and
- 5 WHEREAS, The Imagine Wesley International Academy will be located at 1049 Custer
6 Avenue just west of Moreland Avenue, near the Grant Park and East Atlanta neighborhoods
7 and convenient to I-85/75 and I-20, and
- 8 WHEREAS, the charter for the Imagine Wesley International Academy has recently been
9 approved by the Atlanta Public School System, and
- 10 WHEREAS, the Imagine Wesley International Academy anticipates 300 students to enroll
11 in classes in 2007, and
- 12 WHEREAS, students will participate in a curriculum that follows the guidelines set by the
13 International Baccalaureate Organization's (IBO) Primary Years Program (PYP) and
14 Middle Years Program (MYP), and
- 15 WHEREAS, the school will explore and celebrate cultural differences in an academically
16 challenging, nurturing and intentionally multiethnic environment, and
- 17 WHEREAS, the children will have the great fortune of incorporating a second language
18 (Mandarin) into their everyday lives starting in kindergarten, and
- 19 WHEREAS, the goal is to encourage the children to develop into global thinkers and
20 lifelong learners, and

1 WHEREAS, one of the unique goals of Imagine Wesley International Academy is to benefit
2 girls and boys in separate (single gender) classrooms, and

3 WHEREAS, classes will be separate for girls and boys, with equal access for all students to
4 a safe and modern facility, qualified teachers, and high standards, thereby offering the
5 benefits of single gender instruction, while ensuring equal opportunity for boys and girls
6 alike, and

7 WHEREAS, single gender classrooms have broad bipartisan support from leaders such as
8 U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, and U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and

9 WHEREAS, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings has stated, "Research shows
10 that some students may learn better in single-sex education environments. The Department
11 of Education is committed to giving communities more choices in how they go about
12 offering varied learning environments to their students. These final regulations permit
13 communities to establish single sex schools and classes as another means of meeting the
14 needs of students. They also establish that enrollment in a single sex class should be a
15 completely voluntary option for students and their families and they uphold the prohibitions
16 against discrimination of Title IX. Every child should receive a high quality education in
17 America and every school and district deserves the tools to provide it."

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE/IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
19 join in commending the Atlanta Public School System and its public charter school, Imagine
20 Wesley International Academy, and recognizing their innovative approach to expanding the
21 educational offerings to the families and children of Atlanta and its environs.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
23 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Dr. Rebecca A. Gray, chairperson of the
24 Board of the Imagine Wesley International Academy.